

To: Federal Communications Commission
Regarding proceeding number, **05-311**

My name is Flonia Telegrafi and I am a supporter of Public Access. Having worked with Manhattan Neighborhood Network's Youth Channel where I got my start as a documentary filmmaker at the age of 18, I have to say that the resources made available to me and my peers by The MNN Youth Channel are hard to find anywhere else even in today's digital boom. Public Access and MNN are vital resources for the members of the NYC community who feel underrepresented by the mainstream media. The services that a Public Access station such as MNN provides are priceless to youth who like me have gotten their first experience of media literacy and filmmaking because such facilities are out there and exist to train and educate the public in being more media savvy and to not rely on others to make TV when we can do it ourselves. The services of Public Access are priceless to community organizations that can get out their message to the public and start a community conversation via its airwaves, conversations that would not have a chance if they were solely confined to rooms with four walls.

I would like to submit these comments to the FCC's "Notice of Proposed Rulemaking" 05-311 on "video franchising". Local franchising is important to our local cities and communities. Franchises ensure that local citizens and communities have control over the telecommunications and media in their area, and that telecommunications companies are accountable to the needs of consumers. Without local franchises local communities will be stripped of an adequate way to make sure companies charge reasonable rates, respond to customer complaints, or that they provide universal service.

Local franchises are also cornerstone in the operation of Public, Educational, and Governmental (PEG) TV. PEG TV provides the important service of supporting localism in the media, and the making and airing of programs that reflect the diversity of American life. PEG TV is very important in providing a place where the public can be informed about local government affairs; and where individuals and community organizations can express their viewpoints and opinions. Democracy works best when the widest range of ideas possible is made available to all people, and PEG TV plays an important role in doing this.

As a supporter of Public Access TV in Manhattan, I strongly urge the FCC to rule for the maintenance of local franchises.

Regards,

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